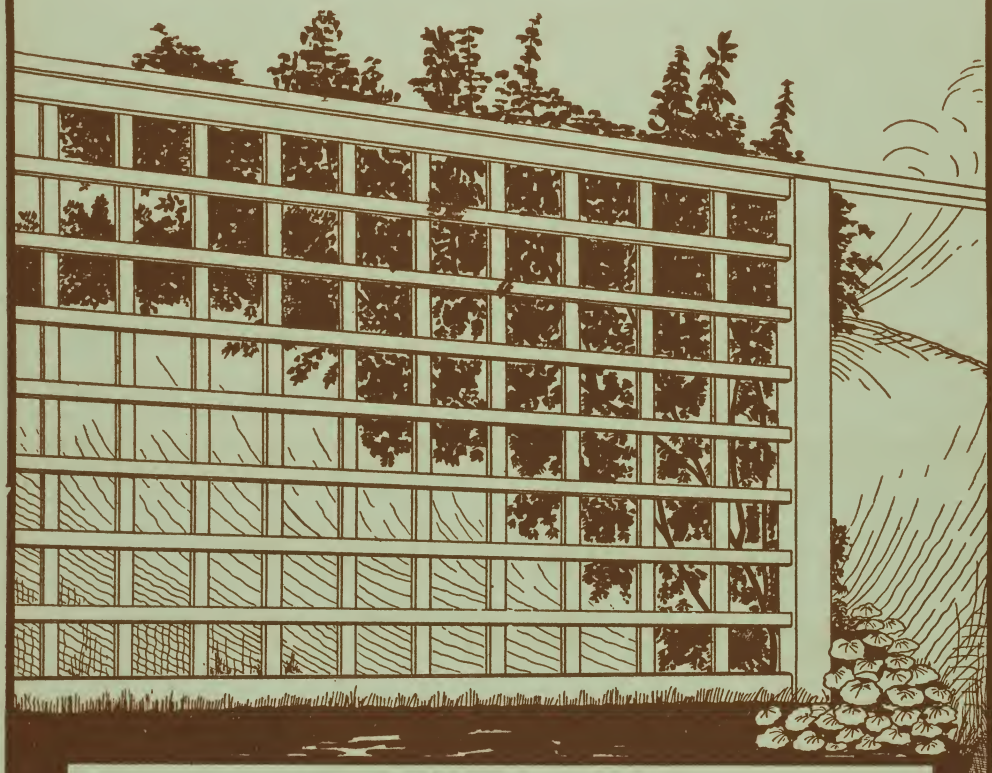
# California Garden



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# The California Garden

*Published Monthly by the San Diego Floral Association*
*One Dollar per Year, Ten Cents per Copy*

Vol. 11 POINT LOMA, CALIFORNIA, JUNE, 1920 No. 12

## THE FATES ARE KIND

Because of a combination of favorable circumstances the city water department finds it will not be necessary to enforce the water restrictions which have limited our gardening operations during several seasons previous. Because of the completion of the Lake Hodges dam, and the fact that an exceptionally generous runoff has practically filled this reservoir, the city will be able to purchase water to supply Pacific Beach, Ocean Beach and La Jolla, three communities which have hitherto suffered somewhat from water shortages. By purchasing water during August, a critical period for these districts will be tided over.

This, does not mean, however, that San Diego is on easy street as regards water supply. City Manager W. H. Judy, is authority for the statement that the available supply is still a considerable amount below the estimated maximum consumption—which means, obviously, that it will be necessary to look outside the city-owned reservoirs to make up the deficit, which occurs during the summer months. This water must either be pumped from Mission Valley, which works a hardship on the tender plants in our gardens, or purchased from the Cuyamaca system, which works a hardship on our pocketbooks. The logical conclusion at which we arrive is not that we should plant less garden, but that we should not let one single opportunity pass to conserve or develop water, and this applies not only to this county, but to the whole of this great state of ours, where water is undisputed potentate. We are reminded of a certain little negro boy who died soon after eating a prodigious quantity of watermelon. Two of his color were discussing the probable cause of his demise. "He ate too much watermelon, dat's all," suggested one of the friends. The other brunette disagreed, "Dar's no such thing as too much watermelon, 'dare jes' wasn't nuf boy, dat's all." There is no such thing as too much good garden. Extravagant and wasteful use of water has no part in good gardening, however, and it seems to us that it is quite as necessary, both for the good of our gardens and of our water supply, that where possible, our garden plants be mulched, or cultivated more than is now being done.

If the mulch consists of strawy manure, it performs the double duty of fertilization and conserving water, not to mention the saving of labor which naturally results. Since fortune favors the garden this year, let us avail ourselves of the opportunity offered, by planting **and caring for** more garden.

## AVOCADO VARIETIES

By William H. Sallmon, Chula Vista.
(President Calif. Avocado Association.)

"Which is the best variety of avocado to plant?" is the commonest question which the avocado enthusiast is called upon to answer. This question has been clearly answered by the Committee on Varieties which submitted its report to the recent convention of the California Avocado Association. Of the eight varieties recommended for commercial planting in 1917 five are retained and no new ones added to the list. Those which are dropped are the Taft, Lyon and Blakeman. The Taft comes late into bearing and is susceptible to frost injury. However, the Taft tree is so beautiful and the fruit so excellent that those will be compensated who are willing to wait a long time for returns. It will remain popular as a family tree, but not for commercial planting. The Lyon tree is generally weak and hard to raise. It thrives in some orchards in the Whittier district, but refuses to become acclimated in the region of San Diego. The tree, however, is precocious and prolific and because of its slender habit of growth is adapted for interplanting. The fruit has shown a tendency to decay while still on the tree, but the sound fruit is of good quality. The Blakeman tree is inclined to be unwieldly and the experience with young budded trees of this variety is so limited that its continuance on the list does not seem justified.

The five accepted varieties which have

proven themselves worthy of recommendation after some years of study are Fuerte, Spinks, Dickinson, Sharpless and Puebla.

The Fuerte is a hybrid, predominantly Guatamalan, but with some evidence of Mexican blood. The tree is hardy and vigorous, an early and productive bearer, with fruit of high quality weighing from 11 to 16 ounces, ripening from December to April. It is the only green fruit on the list. The Spinks is a handsome, vigorous tree and the smooth, purplish, black fruit weighing 16 to 20 ounces is a thing of beauty. The long ripening season from March to October is in its favor, and the flavor is at its best late in the season. The seed is rather large in proportion to the amount of flesh. The Dickinson is satisfactory from every point of view, the tree is hardy, compact, and a good and early bearer. The handsome dark purple fruit, weighing 14 to 20 ounces, with small seed tight in the cavity, is of good quality. The rough hardy skin will please those who stick to the misnomer "Alligator pear". The seasonal dates are May to September.

The Sharpless tree is sometimes difficult to start. The fruit is a large, dark purple of high quality, 16 to 20 ounces, ripening in the fall and early winter. The Puebla is the only one of the Mexican type on the list. The tree is hardy, an early bearer and productive. The dark purple fruit ripening from November to January, weighing 6 to 14 ounces, has a fine distinctive flavor. The period required from the blossoms to the maturity of the fruit in the shortest of any kind on the list, requiring a year and a half.

Among other varieties of merit are the Queen and the Habersham, formerly called Dickey A. These are both promising and worthy of trial by those who have space to spare for experiment.

## ARBOR DAY BULLETIN ISSUED BY STATE

State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Will C. Wood, has just issued a bulletin of suggestions for the use of the schools of California in observing Conservation, Bird and Arbor Day. Since March 7th, the day set aside as Conservation, Bird and Arbor Day, this being the birthday of Luther Burbank, falls on Sunday, the schools will observe the Monday following.

The bulleting contains a message to the pupils of the California schools from Luther Burbank, a discussion of the work of the California plant wizard and excellent articles on the redwoods, the effects of deforestration and beautification of school grounds. Among the unique features are a story by M. N. Reynolds on "How the Birds Helped Win the War" and a story of the La Brea asphalt beds by Loye Holmes Miller. The bulletin is well illustrated.

## GARDENING SUGGESTIONS FROM OVER SEAS

Copies of two English publications have come into our hands through the courtesy of W. C. King of East Hartlepool, England,—for many years a staunch friend of the "Garden". One, "Farm, Field and Fireside", is as its title suggests, more comprehensive in its scope, publishing helpful and timely information on the great variety of subjects of interest to both farmers and gardeners, while the other, "The Gardener and Popular Gardening" is more particularly devoted to the flower and vegetable gardens. The number received contains a valuable article on "Evergreen Shrubs for the Rock Garden", which we are taking the liberty of reprinting verbatim, for the possible suggestions it offered both for this and other purposes in our gardens.

Shrubs are almost a necessity in any rock-garden, since without them it is hardly possible to achieve the best results in one's efforts to gain the effect of height, space and harmonious composition. Cunningly placed, a tiny tree can make a rock look immense, or it may reduce it to more moderate proportions. It can convey an impression of vastness to quite a small garden and uplift or afford character to a piece of work which suffers from too great a flatness or depression.

Fortunately we have a wide choice of subjects for this purpose in evergreens, and some of the best of these are to be found among the

### Dwarf Conifers

In this section the Junipers are especially attractive owing to their finely cut, feathery foliage, close habit and slow growth. The gem of the race is J. hibernica compressa, a tiny, glaucous, conelike tree, probably the smallest of the Conifers. J. canadensis (communis) nana is a good creeping kind, and the form of this known as prostrata is a pretty grey-green. J. tamariscifolia is also of the latter tint and a good carpeter, and there are some very quaint Japanese Junipers which only possess one fault, and that is their price. The Lawson Cypresses give us one or two dwarfs suited to the smallest rock garden. One of these is Cupressus Wisselii, a columnar variety of a particularly attractive shade of green and plumose branches. Another good one is C. minima, which is very distinctive, and of this there is a glaucous form. In the Piceus (Spruce) we have the beautiful and compact P. Remonti, which makes a dome of golden green like an old-fashioned bee-hive, P. pygmae and P. pumila. The Swiss Stone Pine (P. cembra) is slow in growth, stiff, upright and bristly, with plenty of character, and there is a wee variety of

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# In Our Elfin Woodlands

*By* RALPH W. SUMNER

In company with a commissioner, an inspector and a botanist, the writer had the privilege of seeing Palomar Mountain in May. Taking the road to Escondido via Poway, and on through the Rincon Indian Reservation, we arrived at the foot ready for a climb royal.

To this point we saw enough wild flowers, deep canyons and running streams to please the eye of any rational person, but we could see forest-fringed ridges on the heights ahead and the desire to reach them possessed us.

Palomar Mountain is over 6100 feet elevation, and to get on the higher levels where Big-Cone spruce, fir and black-oaks mingle in woodland attractiveness we had to be willing to forego the luxury of easy riding. The law of vibration, movable bodies, immovable bodies, gravitation, accelerated gesture, and other laws were fully demonstrated, but the road is being repaired, and boulevard conditions probably await future attempts. But the flowers, oh! the flowers. Thousands upon thousands beautified those rocky, grass-covered slopes; and the outlook over valley and hills ever became more wonderful in the afternoon haze. We passed from mid-spring back to its early stages, up where the "Brakes" (Pteris aquilina) were just unrolling baby fronds, and "Tiger Lilies" (Lilium Humboldtii) were pushing through the forest floor. Occasionally "Dogwood" (Cornus Nuttalli) with its composite center of greenish flowers and large white bracts brightened dark canyon sides.

On one of the first turns from the foot we suddenly came upon a wild garden, knee-deep with wonderful rosy-hued lavender "Mariposas" (Calochortus splendens). The Botanist had never seen finer ones, and pointed out the difference between this large rich colored Calochortus with dark spots at the base of petals, and the less colorful Caliochortus Catalinae that grows about town.

DELPHINIUM CARDINALE
"Southern Scarlet Larkspur"
(Courtesy Theo. Payne, Wild Flower Seeds & Plants)

Lupines, Larkspurs and wonderful Sidalceas that for the moment almost fooled us into thinking they were Godetias, so full of color were they. The commission collected several varieties of Lupines as samples of stock-poisoning plants. All of these and the Larkspurs, including the tall red one (Delphinium Cardinale) herewith pictured, have at least narcotic properties, and many are downright poisonous to stock. Astragalus leucopsis, known as "Loco-weed" and common about San Diego, is another plant under the ban. Occasionally we caught sight of a Lupine-like plant with yellow spikes and on investigating found it had soft, silky trifoliate leaves. It proved to be False-Lupine (Thermopsis macrophylla var. velutina).

As we rose higher and higher the distant landscape widened, veiled somewhat by sunshiny haze, but not less beautiful.

Finally we came to a spot that was so intense with deep purple Phacelia (Phacelia Parryi), very large yellow Sphaerostigmas, golden California poppies, and occasional bursts of the scarlet Woolly Paintbrush, that we stopped amid exclamations. All the flowers we encountered seemed so unusually large and rich colored.

That evening and the next morning while the commissioner and inspector looked for trouble in apple orchards, the botanist and myself meandered through forest and meadows. One of the wild lilacs, probably

Ceanothus thyrsiflorus, attracted our attention as growing in its southernmost limit, the flower thyrses are rather small, but the leaves are large and dark green. "Bitter Cherry" (Prunus emarginata) grew in attractive groups and the white flowers were just beginning to decorate the branch tips. It differs from "Choke Cherry" (Prunus demissa) which is seen oftener in our back country, by having smaller, blunter leaves, and shorter sprays of bloom. Two oaks were noticeable,—the "Black Oak" (Quercus Kelloggi), its maple-like leaves just breaking their reddish buds; and "Maul" or "Gold Cup Oak" (Quercus chrysolepis), the utility oak of the mountains. Of all our oaks it is said to have the most valuable wood, being fine grained, strong and tough. It is evergreen and often called "Mountain Live-oak," but the name of "Gold Cup" is especially interesting, because the specific name Chrysolepis means gold scales, and the acorn cups do have a golden fuzz on their scales. The leaves of young shoots have sharp teeth, while the ones on the trees are smooth edged and longer.

The "Big-cone Spruce" (Pseudotsuga macrocarpa) is a splendid looking tree, and the first to get our attention as we neared the forest levels. The very long limbs stretch out something in the manner of that majestic king of the forest, the "Sugar Pine" (Pinus lambertiana). It thrives in our drier mountains of the south, while its counterpart, the "Douglas Spruce" (Pseudotsuga taxifolia), the great lumber tree of the West, grows further north. These two "False Hemlock Spruces" are somewhat confusing as to names. Pseudo means false and Tsuga means Hemlock, and the fact that they have qualities of the Fir, the Spruce and the Hemlock is undoubtedly responsible for their numerous common names. Like the Hemlocks and true Spruces their cones are pendant, but three-pointed bracts protrude from between the cone scales, in the manner of some of the Fir cones. The wood is more like the Fir and gives rise to the Lumberman's designation of "Douglas Fir" for the northern species. Here and there great red trunks with long fissured bark, bearing above drooping flat sprays of Cypress-like leaves announced the Incense Cedar" (Libocedrus decurrens). Our famous Christmas tree, the one used at the "Organ" and "Plaza" of recent years, was also there "White Fir" (Abies concolor).

It is utterly useless for me to try to tell you of the wonderful distant landscape, mountain peaks rugged with rocks or velvety with forest crowns, the valley with a shining river and green meadows, the sea of fog, silvery in the morning sun, with here and there an upward burst of mist, like the spray of a huge breaker on the rocks of a real ocean. The English language cannot truly convey such a scene; you have to see it with your own eyes.

And the meadows! It was here amongst the grasses and carices we found Viola Douglasii with flowers very similar to our own Viola Pedunculata, but the leaves were soft and cut into narrow divisions. It grew in drier places as well. But the little blue violet (Viola palmata cucullata) was content in the damp sodded soil. A tiny plant with white Nemophila-like flowers drew the special attention of the botanist, and it was a puzzler, too, for it bore the earmarks of Limnanthes and loudly proclaimed kinship to its larger cousin "Meadow Foam," but the books at hand seem silent about it. Perhaps another trip for fresh flowers will reveal its identity.

Some of the meadows had acres of wonderful glossy Buttercups, a sight to remember. In one place the wind rippled them like a sea of gold. Another meadow was planted to Veratrum, the greenish flowers not yet in evidence.

In another place we saw Wild Strawberries (Fragaria California) in bloom. It was near a stream in the forest, and the thoughts that came of lunch possibilities there a little later in the season made my mouth water.

The commissioner finished his inspection all too soon, and directly we were whisked by many alluring places and plants. However there remains a lot of joy for some future trip when our optics can have a little more leisure.

In returning to Escondido we reviewed with pleasure plants and flowers by the roadside. "Bush Penstemon" (Penstemon antirrhinoides) was yellow with its Snapdragon-like bloom. Clumps of "Woolly Milkweed" (Gomphocarpus tomentosus), its stout, white stems and silky leaves contrasting splendidly with its dark maroon flowers.

The plant that caused us the most excitement was one that few know to be native so far south. It is Lewisia brachycalyx, a "Bitter-root."

It is the first cousin to the State flower of Idaho (Lewisia rediviva) and the botanist found it for the first time in our county a year or so ago. It was growing on ground that had been swampy, near Cuyamaca Lake, but now it was as dry and hard as the roadway. The large fleshy root was its refuge till rains again moisten the spot. It is differentiated from Lewisia rediviva by its spatulate leaves, and the joint and bracts of the flower stem being just below the calyx, the two lobes of which with the two bracts giv-

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Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

# The June Gardens

## THE FLOWER GARDEN

(By Mary Mathews)

"Grow, flowers, that thou may'st perfume have and give—
Grow cabbages, that thou may'st eat and live;
For life is complex and its needs demand
That flowers and cabbages go hand in hand."

This is a month in the garden when strict watch will have to be kept if you expect to bring your favorites into bloom. Some one has said that, "The seven lamps of agriculture are manure, lime, bone-meal, leaf mold water cultivation, and common sense; there is only one element of luck and that is the weather." Every one of these might be studied and used to advantage in this month, the lucky thing in regards to the weather will probably be delay in putting out choice tender plants till it warms up a bit, the cool nights are trying to some of them—annuals and perennials will need ample water, and cultivation afterwards—don't let the water flood them and then fail to cultivate, around strong growing clumps work in some manure and lime, then if you wish, a good mulch of leaves, trash, etc., but do not fail early the next morning to search for snails and slugs. When your Iris are through blooming if you wish to divide the clumps this is, I think, the best time especially with the beardless section. If you are not going to lift your choice bulbs that bloomed in the early season, mark with a neat marker in some way so that you will not cut into them while working the surface cover you have planted for summer bloom. I saw a good lot of stakes the other day, that was bamboo or rather the common cane, cut into various lengths and painted a dull green; they served the purpose, were inconspicuous nad will no doubt last several seasons. Going back to bulbs as I always do, the Montbretia to which I referred awhile ago, is "The Star of the East," a brilliant fellow with velvety head in the center, four inches across, and the price $1.50 per bulb; it can now be procured from home dealers that are in the United States, and some of us ought certainly to try it, as the Montbretia increases so rapidly here and blooms at a time when just such things are scarce, and greatly appreciated. Put in more Gladiolus this month, after seeing the gorgeous and also dainty specimens being exhibited by different ones in our Floral Society, you will certainly want some in your own garden, these also

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## THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

(By Walter Birch)

We are having our usual May weather with an occasional almost summer day thrown in, reminding us that before long evaporation will be much greater, so let us keep our ground in good tilth, and keep the moisture going by judicious irrigation, and by so doing get the maximum of growth out of our crops of all kinds. In this way we will get the really worth while vegetables for our tables.

June is a good month for making a fresh planting of anything that is running short, as there are few things one cannot plant to advantage this time of year.

Make another planting of beans, Kentucky Wonder for pole and stringless; Green Pod for bush, also some more sweet corn, carrots, beets, radish, etc. Sweet potato plants can also go in now, planting them about 18 inches apart, rows three feet apart, and if you have not enough peppers, egg plant and tomatoes, get in a few more plants of all of these.

A little nitrate of soda applied at the rate of a handful to a pail of water and used near enough for the roots to get the benefit of it will be found a great booster for your vegetables of all kinds. It will also help your citrus trees in cases where they are suffering from a sort of curly leaf, brought on a good deal by aphis. For full-grown trees you can use as much as one pound of nitrate scattered over the ground as far as the root system extends, for smaller trees in proportion. It is interesting to note that sulphur is coming more and more into use as a fertilizer. Until recently sulphur was supposed to be present in only very minute quantities in plant life. Compared to nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash, the quantity of sulphur was considered negligible. This supposition was due, however, to faulty methods of analysis. By improved methods of analysis it has been discovered that many plants contain more sulphur than phosphoric acid, nitrogen or potash. Since it has been established beyond all doubt that next to carbon, oxygen and hydrogen sulphur is one of the main, if not the main, constituents of plant life. The addition of sulphur in various forms to soils is being investigated at a number of experimental stations in Amer-

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# MAY DAY IN BALBOA PARK

By F. C. Arter.

While the great restless throngs poured through the ferry gates to Coronado and Tent City, a very few quiet natured folk chose to wander amid the Elysian groves and gardens of Balboa Park.

It was in truth a quiet, restful day as sister and I strolled among the bright flowers, the gently swaying palms and the rustling eucalyptus and pepper tress that skirt the forders of the trim gravel walks and trails that so irresistably invite to seek their hidden goals. Here, perchance, if one should follow the end he might find some dejected poet sitting astride his jaded pegasses, at the "end of the trail", peering into the depths of some rugged canyon.

As the noon hour drew nigh we thought to add a touch of romance to the day's pleasures by eating our lunch while seated beneath the boughs of the Shakespeare Memorial Tree. We found the little Greenwood tree cloistered among the growing things about it. But of this I should like to write more fully at another time. The ground being rather damp from recent sprinkling we sought the seclusion of the Los Jardines de Montezuma. (Let us preserve the Exposition names.)

As we sat in this beautiful little sylvan court, eating our deviled eggs and angel cake, there came to us the gentle whisperings of breeze-blown trees high above; an occasional bird flitted about, busy, no doubt, with their nest building. The bees, too, were busy as bees as they roamed the pansy beds in quest of nectar or pollen.

Slightly paraphrasing poet Riley's lines:

Across the pansy beds there came,
Soft as an angel's wing,
A breezy, treesy, busy hum,
Too sweet for anything.

This is a place to dream: to call up the spirit of Exposition days. One may easily catch the faint musical echo of the Spanish singers as they strolled through the courts and corridors singing and dancing to the soft strains of guitars and the clacking of castanets.

From here our itinerary led us to the art exhibit in the Fine Arts Building. Here we spent a pleasant half hour amid the best efforts of our local **masters.** (Yes, and tapping a foot on the tiles to start the echos reverberating through the gallery,—try it sometime when there is no one present.) I hesitate to here reveal the full extent of my technical knowledge of Art, and comparisons are sometimes odious, hence will leave the subject for "more abler" pens. I will say, however, that some of the "Canvasses" did appeal to my artistic (?) nature quite forcibly, so much so that I have decided to offer my forty-dollar camera for them, agreeing to give them an honored place among an extensive collection of art treasures which I possess through the generosity of one of our local banks. I am ashamed to thus so meagerly treat a subject that calls for columns of praise, I am no connoisseur in this line; when I should have been following art studies, in my youth, I was, per force of circumstances, following the plow-handles. Art and Agriculture, then, seemed incompatible.

Mid afternoon found us wandering amid the garden patches and poultry pens at the rear of the Model Farm. As we strolled along, admiring the luxuriant growth of the vegetables and sniffing the delicate odors of the honeysuckle hedge that borders the pathway, we met up with the cutest little kid. Now, sister and I are on quite intimate terms with all the "kids" in our neighborhood, so it was only natural that we should stop and have a visit with this little fellow. He was so friendly and confiding one could not help falling for his wily ways. He told us, in his kiddish way that he was lonesome, that his mother was not at home and he had nothing to eat since late that morning (this was early p. m. Not having any cookies with us we pulled up some young, tender carrots growing nearby—did he eat them? Well, I should say he did—root and branch, and then called for more. This, however, need not "get your goat". Passing to the front of the Model Farm we sat down under a vine-covered arbor, which faces the orange grove. Here we rested and ate our oranges. No, you are wrong, we **did not,** we brought them from home in our lunch box.

Presently, from out of the north, there came tripping along pumpkin alley—I mean the Alameda—a modern Maud Muller, with kodak in hand, with which perchance she might capture some sedate judge, or more probably, some romantic young blue-jacket. Sure enough, clattering hoofs were soon heard charging down pumpk—beg pardon—the Alameda, and three young sailor lads, dressed in their best, mounted on spirited chargers, came to view. Now, whether or not it was the "come hither" in her eyes, or some equally sedate charm that arrested the attention of the young knights, one may not say. At any rate the trick was neatly turned and Maud was soon maneuvering her young gallants for a potshot with her kodak. This accomplished they rode off with a spurt and flourish that would have done credit to older riders. They had gone but a few paces when

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# The May Meeting

The regular meeting of the Floral Association was held on May the 18th at the attractive home of Mr. and Mrs. Earnest White. Their home was built twenty-two years ago and they have a number of fine old trees, perhaps the best specimen of a Leptospermum to be seen in San Diego..

In the absence of Mr. Marston, Mr. Gorton gave the report of the tree planting committee. The committee met with the council on May the 17th. The unplanted portions of the highway beyond Pacific Beach are to be considered in the near future and the committee was asked by the council to form a plan for planting new streets within the city limits. In the near future it is hoped our generation may be responsible for planting trees along our streets, upon which in the years to come, our children's children may look with pride, as they fly in Pierce-Arrow aeroplanes over the streets which at present are unenhanced by trees.

Mr. Hieatt reported upon the El Monte Oak project. There are ten to fifteen acres in the flat and forty acres on the hillside which gives access to the river; these are under consideration in the conservation plan. The Lakeside Improvement Club will co-operate with us in conserving this tract. Mr. Gorton has written to a number of counties in our state to ascertain what they are doing relative to providing picnic grounds for the public. A full report will be given at the annual meeting of the plan for San Diego.

The financial report of the Spring Rose and Flower Show tendered by Mr. Hieatt was most gratifying. The gross receipts were $670.00. About $400.00 of this amount was clear profit; $150.00 was paid to the Park Commissioners. The attendance was greater than at any previous show. The number, including the children who were allowed in free Monday, reached 7000.

A vote of thanks was given Mr. Hieatt, our very efficient show chairman, and his committee.

The subject of the evening was lath houses. We had Mr. and Mrs. Frevert with us, whose lath house is a joy to all those who are fortunate enough to behold it, and its success is due to their individual efforts. One would not judge by looking at it that any mistakes had been made, but this was their claim and they wished others, who are contemplating building lath houses, to avoid their blunders. The Frevert lath house, started about eleven years ago, was one of the first to be built in San Diego. They have added to it a great many times and have a glass house, as well, now, into which they may walk from their living room. Their laths have been spaced only one-half inch apart. They believe the spacing should be the width of a lath, at least, so that more sunshine may sift through. If there is too much shade, the begonias do not bloom as they would if more sunlight prevailed the enclosure.

Mr. Robinson's absence was regretted, as we feel that he is one of the authorities on lath houses.

There was much difference of opinion as to the height they should be. The low ones were advocated by some. Mr. and Mrs. George Becker's is one of the low artistic ones, while the Frevert's, the Campbell's and Mr. Robinson's are high. The chief difficulty to be encountered with a low one would be that the tree begonias might refuse to stay within bounds, and would take the roof off if it were not elevated in time.

One speaks of leaf mold and lath houses in the same breath, as plants suitable for them thrive best in mold. This is usually mixed in proportions of half and half. Ferns and begonias of all varieties grow well under lath. Care must be taken to provide the latter with good drainage as they object strenuously to wet feet. In advocating lath house plants we might mention Columbine, Coleus, Trailing Lobelia, Gloxinias, Farfugium, Achimines and Impatiens.

From lath houses the discussion wandered to the question of exposures. It was the consensus of opinion, that for those fond of working in their garden, as well as for those who like to sit upon their porches and contemplate their flowers, an east porch and garden are preferable. Face your home west and have a small formal garden for the passer-by to view, but a large space at the rear where you may play about in the soil unobserved.

Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Cushman brought some very fine varieties of gladiolus. The latter's were Primulinus Hybrids and a particularly beautiful one was Rosella. These hybrids have become popular in recent years, as they are well adapted for decorative purposes. They are indigenous to South Africa. They can be had in very unusual and beautiful shades, and if all in the company were attracted by them as much as was the writer many gladiolus will be seen at this time next year in gardens where they are not grown at present.

LEDA KLAUBER, Secretary.

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**——BUY W. S. S.——**

If your youngsters see you squandering money foolishly, they either will grow up with mighty bad habits or a poor opinion of your judgment.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

## Gardening Suggestions from Overseas

*Continued from page 2*

the Scots Pine. Taxus nana is a dwarf Yew, a genuine pigmy, and the almost globular, purple-tinted Thuya known as "Little Gem" is a delightfully fuzzy, compact little bush. All these will do in dry spots and poor soils once they are established. I prefer to plant in April or early September. They should be kept well watered the first summer.

Among other Diminutive Evergreens there are two dwarf, non-creeping Ivies, Hedera conglomerata and H. minima, which are well worth a place. Nor can one overlook the tiny Chinese Holly (Ilex crenata). This may be secured in two varieties both of which are very small, very neat and pretty. Olearia stellulata, which grows up to 4 feet, and O. nitida, both of which bear white, Daisy-like flowers, deserve a trial, but they are not quite hardy everywhere, and another beautiful shrub which wants a fairly genial place is the prostrate form of the Common Rosemary. Veronica Hectori is a curious, hardy alpine species resembling a Club Moss. With me it bears its tiny lilac flowers but grudgingly, and I like better the greyleafed V. decumbens in a dwarf form. V. Armstrongi is also small and trim, and mention must be made of V. salicornioides which looks like a dwarf Cypress in gold. Then one cannot omit from this long family the exquisite V. hulkeana, which, if not quite so hardy as some, should certainly be given a trial.

The Euonymus affords us a little jewel in E. Kewensis, which can stand 15 degrees of frost in my light soil without protection. Then there is our old friend Cassinea fulvida (Diplopappus), which, if it is kept in hand by a fearless cutting back in late summer, will yield more beautifully tinted foliage as well as a more shapely form than when it is allowed to grow freely. Among Berberises one of the most satisfactory is B. buxifolia (dulcis) nana, an orderly little bush of some '5 in., the rather larger B. Hookeri, with fine foliage and conspicuous purple fruits, which will flourish in the poorest soils, and B. empetrioflia (about 2 feet) with graceful, arching stems.

**Cotoneasters and Brooms**

evergreen as well as dwarf are comparatively few. Most of them are invaluable for clinging to the face of a rock, growing up or down, and they are not particular as to soil or position. C. congesta is one of the best. Another good one is C. thymaefolia, very close-growing and neat, and the common C. microphylla, often seen on cottage walls, is most adaptable. Even more prostrate than any of the above is C. humifusa (Dammeri radicans) which closely hugs the rock with its leafy trailers. All those bear crimson or scarlet berries which often remain all winter, and there are a number of other kinds, some of quite upright growth.

Of the true Brooms, Cytisus schipkaensis is one of the most dwarf and it bears fine heads of creamywhite flowers in summer. Not unlike this, but smaller, is C. Kewensis, and the lovely spring-flowering C. praecox is always admirable. C. ardoini and C. Heuffli are, both dwarfs and semi-prostrate, and C. purpureus in one or other of its various forms is first-rate. In the Genista group are several useful dwarf Gorses. Of these G. dalmatica is a yellow-flowering species of sparse habit, and the miniature form of Spanish Gorse (G. hispanica), distinguished as nana, can, like the above be used in the smallest garden. G. tinctoria fl. pl. is a spineless species rarely attaining much over 15 in. in height and G. humifusa is a prostrate kind—both good. Another very distinct creeping species, and true alpine, is G. sagittalis, distinguished by its curiously winged stems which do duty as leaves.

Whilst one cannot attempt anything like a complete list of shrubby evergreens suitable for rock-gardens one feels it essential to mention the Japanese Azaleas, with their glorious range of colours, and the Ericas or Healths.

A. T. J.

## The Elfin Woodlands

*Continued from page 4*

ing the appearance of a four-leafed calyx. While digging up a specimen I sacrificed a knife-blade in the effort, and the commissioner playfully set up a cobble tombstone marking the place.

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## The Flower Garden

*Continued from page 5*

increase rapidly. Agapanthus will be coming into bloom now and will need plenty of water. Stocks for winter blooming can be started in the seed boxes—after they are once up do not let them dry out at any time, also put in seeds of Delphiniums, and Aquilegias (Columbines) for next season's blooms, likewise the snap dragons can go in. If you saw the snap-dragons in the Mission Cliff gardens when they were in their prime, also the dainty long Columbines from Mrs. Wangenheim's garden, you would surely be anxious to grow them in your own garden. If the weather is favorable plant ornamental subjects, such as bamboos and grasses.

Sow seeds of Zinnias and marigolds in the open—try at least one of the new things offered in the various catalogs, even if they do not come up to catalog descriptions you will have the fun; and some of the greatest feats in floriculture have been achieved through little experiments, and don't let any one of the seven lamps go out.

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**THE DAFFODILS**

I wonder lonely as a cloud
That floats on high ore vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing with the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine,
And twinkle on the milky way;
They stretched in never ending line
Along the margin of the bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them dance; but they
Out did the sparkling waves in glee
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed, and gazed, but little thought
What wealth to me the show had brought.

For oft when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

—William Wadsworth.

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Every time you stick a War Savings Stamp on your card you are mailing money to yourself. When they mature you will know what "Getting money from home" feels like.

——BUY W. S. S.——

## May Day In Balboa Park

*Continued from page 6*

they suddenly turned and rode back, saluting Maud and stating that they had taken some pictures down at Panama which they should like to exchange for some she might have. Evidently this was mutually satisfactory and an exchange of addresses was made. Here the young sailor lads dismounted and posed before Maud's camera for another picture.

As they rode away we wonder if this little episode had engendered in the mind or breast of these youngsters a question, a desire, a hope, that "it may be", some day. May there never come a day when they will look back to this day and recall that saddest of all words: "It might have been".

Thus, you see, had we been so foolish as to have cast our lot with the great throng of the "unwashed" that dipped in the surf on this day, we would have missed something worthwhile in the quietude of this little edenic garden.

---

Buy W. S. S.

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# EARLY ACCOUNT OF THE GARDEN SLUG

(By Bronte A. Reynolds, Editor, State Department of Agriculture).

So many inquiries relative to garden slugs, sometimes called "snails", are received and so little information is generally available that the following abstract from Vol. 1 of the Riverside Natural History may be of interest:

The slugs are chiefly nocturnal, and this fact accounts for the few ordinarily seen, although there may be thousands about. In the daytime they secrete themselves under boards, fallen trees, etc., where there is at least partial darkness, but at night they come out to feed. They do a great amount of damage in gardens, as they feed largely on vegetation, although they are not averse to an animal diet. Since they hide themselves during the day, the damage they occasion is usually attributed to birds, and the larvae of insects, but the presence of slugs can usually be recognized by the presence of streaks of glistening slime in the neighborhood. Most of the terrestrial pulmonates are able to secrete a mucus from their body, and in some there are special pores for its emission. In the slugs this capacity reaches a great development, and as they crawl along they leave a streak behind them, which, on drying, produces the glistening marks referred to. This secretion of mucus is to a certain extent defensive, and when the animals are irritated the amount is greatly increased. This fact gives us a simple method of checking their ravages, which is to sprinkle coal-ashes around the plants which it is desired to protect. The fine grit of the ashes irritates them, and they pour out the mucus to such an extent that they are exhausted, and besides, since it rapidly hardens on exposure to the air, they are soon rendered prisoners.

This secretion of mucus is used in another way. Slugs frequently climb trees in search of fruit, and when through feeding they take a quicker method of descending than their ordinary snail's pace. The foot pours out a lot of mucus, which is passed along to the posterior end. This mucus is then attached to the limb on which the animal is, and then the slug casts itself loose. Its weight draws the mucus out into a fine thread, and more being secreted, the slug lets itself down after the fashion of a spider, with this exception; it has not the power of returning to the point of support. The power of forming a thread has been observed in almost all the American species, at least when young; but some of the larger forms, when adult, are too heavy to trust their weight to such a slender support.

We have spoken of their ravages in gardens, but in America they have not yet become such a pest as in Europe. There they are classed along with caterpillars, locusts. and rats, and a war of extermination is waged against them. In olden times the power of the church was invoked against them, but prayers and anathemas failed to cause their extinction, or in fact any appreciable diminuation of their numbers. There is another aspect which should not be passed by without mention. Slugs have long been supposed to have medicinal qualities, the rudimentary shell being regarded as especially efficacious. This belief can hardly be regarded as extinct, as Mr. Binney says that "during the year 1863, a syrup of snails was prescribed to members of my family, by two regular French physicians in Paris." During the middle ages, when superstition ran riot, of course they were much more highly esteemed. The shell was regarded as an amulet, protecting the wearer against certain diseases and witchcraft, while the liquid obtained by their distillation was used to improve the complexion. In Europe they are eaten, but in America neither dietetic nor magic qualities have been assigned to these loathsome appearing animals.

## THE ESCONDIDO FLOWER SHOW

A member of very meritorious entries marked the annual exhibit of the Escondido Floral Society last month.

A "snow flower" from the San Bernardino Mountains was among those present. This interesting saprophite was the object of much attention and comment. Another "high spot" of the show was a so-called "Marguerite of Palestine" which had been uprooted for the occasion, and the entire plant, containing over two hundred flowers was exhibited. Even "Back East" was represented by the presence of a way downeast red clover—common to folks east of the Mississippi, but is rare to this part of the world as "guinea pigs' tails."

Some very good blooms of lilac, grown in the Escondido valley, by the way, furnished companionship for the clover, until we could almost feel the chill of an eastern blizzard or the smothering breath of an eastern summer's day.

Among the best entries in the basket class were baskets of Geraniums and Calliopsis, demonstrating to any one's satisfaction that it is not essential to use orchids or roses for this purpose, but that in the long run the effect is largely dependent upon the artistry rather than upon the material used.

——BUY W. S. S.——

There are plenty of people to sell you a ticket to the Wild Cat Stock show, but nobody to give your money back if you don't like the show.

# Work of U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry Reviewed

An interesting Bulletin consisting of the report of W. A. Taylor, Chief of the Bureau, covering the work of the department for the fiscal year, ending June 30, 1919, has been received, and gives some idea of the diversity of the activities of this important branch of the work of the Department of Agriculture.

Included among the many phases of the work of the year have been investigations on improvement and culture of grain varieties, commercial culture of Smyrna Figs, including the growing of capri figs and their distribution to growers of Smyrna Figs; the experimental work on culture of Deglet Noor, the finest of imported date varieties; rotations, storage and utilization of truck crops; bulb culture investigations, which promise to have important bearing on the development of this industry in the United States.

Fields of Egyptian cotton grown around Fresno and Bakersfield demonstrate the possibilities in the growing of this crop in California.

The office of Foreign Seed and Plant introduction has figured largely in the work of the bureau of Plant Industry, importing quantities of plants, trees, seeds, cions, etc. which show promise of being possible of utilization in this country. Among other introductions twenty-three new varieties of Avocado have been brought from Guatamala, to test for growing under conditions here. These varieties include types of wide range of habitat, from near sea level to an altitude of over 5,000 feet.

Stocks of many sorts of fruit trees have been collected from foreign countries, principally the Orient, with a view to securing stocks which are resistant to various unfavorable conditions, disease and insect pests. For example about 75,000 new pear stocks have been distributed to determine their resistance to pear blight. A certain species of Chinese Chestnut (Castanea mollissima), which seems to be resistant to blight has been imported and is being propagated in large numbers. In carrying on this work of plant introduction, great care is taken to prevent introductional distribution of insect and disease pests.

Material assistance has been rendered the drug industry by investigations in drug plants in an effort to stimulate growing of these plants along practical lines.

Considerable attention on the part of the bureau has been devoted to seed importation, seed testing, seed labeling, and etc. to standardize and raise the quality of seed offered by dealers of the United States.

As a result of war conditions it has been necessary for the department to conduct experiments in testing substitutes for the common fertilizer constituents, to determine their real value or worthlessness for this purpose. This work has also included tests of deteriorated powder looking towards its utilization as fertilizer if its value for that purpose could be established.

A very important feature of the pathological work of this bureau has been the campaign for the control of the black rust of wheat which has been conducted in thirteen states of the Union. This has, in part, taken the form of locating and inducing the owners to destroy millions of bushes of the common barberry, which is a host plant of the wheat rust in certain stages of development of this disease.

Work has been continued on the suppression of White Pine Blister Rust, one of the major tree diseases, and which has caused the state of California to maintain a quarantine against all five-leaved pines from the states where the rust is known to be present, together with all varieties of currants and gooseberries which furnish an alternate host for this disease.

G. R. G.

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# The California Garden

G. R. Gorton, Editor
Office, 945 Seventh St., San Diego, Cal.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
**The San Diego Floral Association**
Main Office, Point Loma, California

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Entered as second-class matter December 8, 1910, at the Post office at Point Loma, California, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

California Garden is on the list of publications authorized by the San Diego Retail Merchants Association.

Subscription, $1.00 per year



ADVERTISING RATES

| | | | |
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| One Page | $10.00 | Half Page, | $5.00 |
| Quarter Page | 2.50 | Eighth Page | 1.50 |

Advertising Copy should be in by the 20th of each Month

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## Floral Association Meetings

The Floral Association meets regularly on the third Tuesday evening of each month at the homes mentioned below.

All persons interested in gardening are welcome at these meetings.

May—Mrs. Ernest White, 3100 Second street. Subject: "Lathhouses."

June—Annual meeting.

July—Mrs. C. F. Naylor, 3520 Oregon street. Subject: "Cacti and Other Succulents."

August—Mrs. W. L. Frevert, 3535 First street. Subject: "California Wild Flowers."

### PLANT AND FERN COLLECTORS

Have you an intrenching knife, of the kind formerly used in the United States Army? If so, you have an instrument that will be found useful in the field collection of flowering plants and ferns. Ordinary garden trowels are much too weak for field work, according to Department Circular 76, "Directions for Collecting Flowering Plants and Ferns," which has just been issued for free distribution by the United States Department of Agriculture.

### ——BUY W. S. S.——

"Aye, there's the rub," you think when you dream of Aladdin's slaves. Aladdin never had slaves half so powerful as the man who has savings. Begin today with War Savings Stamps, "always worth more than they cost you."

## *The Query Corner*

Q. In a recent number of the Garden, you mentioned the Carob tree. Can you refer me to any bulletins on this tree?

A. The University of California, Berkeley, publishes two bulletins on the subject, one entitled "The Carob in California," by I. J. Condit, and the other "The Nutriment of the Carob Bean," by Messrs. Jaffa and Elbro.

Q. Can any of the stone fruits be propagated from cuttings as can the olive?

A. No. It would be necessary to grow from the pits and bud to whatever variety is desired. Pomegranates and figs may be grown from cuttings taken from fairly well ripened wood during the dormant season.

## The Vegetable Garden

*Continued from page 5*

ica. The investigations have produced some truly wonderful results. The addition of from three to four hundred pounds of elemental sulphur per acre prior to sowing has caused some remarkable crop increases.

The following are a few of the results obtained on a field scale near Salt Lake:

Turnips showed an increase of 10.4%; field peas, 383.3%; potatoes, 63%; Hubbard squash, 187.9%; barley, oats and wheat from 52% to 182%.

These results were obtained by using at the rate of 400 pounds of sulphur per acre.

It is a noticeable fact that the use of sulphur seems to increase the yield of leguminous plants such as beans, peas, alfalfa, etc., more than any other, and suggests that it may increase their well known nitrogen fixing properties. The best results have been obtained in moist soils well charged with sulphur.

### THE DWARFEST DWARF.

A certain species Japanese cypress, according to the Detroit Free Press, is entitled to the palm for being the "wee-est" of all. After ten years' of strenuous effort this tree finally attains about the size of a golf ball. During the next ten years it rests up from the strain by increasing only a very little in size, after which it ceases growing altogether. We cannot help wondering what it looked like as a seedling.

O Land of the West! I know
How the field-flowers bud and blow,
And the grass springs and the grain
To the first soft touch and summons of the rain!
O, the music of the rain
O, the music of the streams!

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## San Diego Floral Association

## *at*

## *Gray-Maw Music Store*

**1259 Fifth Street**

**Tuesday Evening 8:00**

**June 15, 1920**

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